

1. Need to identify the type, quality and functions of the wetlands.

W1 is a wet meadow wetland, and both W2 and W3 are marsh wetlands. The general quality of the wetlands is low to moderate, due to the proximity of I-15 and other roads and commercial development. Functions provided by the wetlands include wildlife habitat, surface water storage/flood desynchronization, and sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal.

2. What is the primary function of the wetlands?

The wetlands provide the three functions listed above, and none of them are necessarily more important than the others. One can't really say that one function is primary and the others are secondary.

3. What are the conditions of the wetlands?

W1 is the least disturbed of the three wetland areas. It is a wet meadow that is being invaded by a few invasive plant species, but still supports a predominately native plant community.

W2 is a more heavily impacted wetland that has been affected by I-15, commercial development and a gravel parking lot. It has more non-native invasive species than W1.

W3 is a marsh that has been confined between an overpass and a small natural gas facility. It is dominated almost exclusively by non-native invasive species.

These three wetland areas may have historically been connected prior to the construction of I-15.

4. What is the importance of the impacted wetlands?

The importance of the wetlands is in the functions that they provide. The wildlife habitat likely supports primarily birds and perhaps some amphibians, the ability of the wetlands to store surface water decreases flooding of other nearby areas, and the removal of toxicants that may runoff the roads improves water quality. Because these wetlands have been fragmented and heavily impacted by the roads, their importance is less than an undisturbed wetland further from development.

5. What is the relative importance of the wetland functions to the total wetland resources of the area?

In an arid environment, all wetland resources are important components of the ecosystem. However, these wetlands are less important than large contiguous wetland complexes that are less disturbed and able to provide these same functions, plus others, at a higher level.